

6-grade high schools mulled in Boston



JOHN TLUMACKI/GLOBE STAFF

Boston's Haley School has added a building to accomodate seventh- and eighth-graders.

By **James Vaznis** | GLOBE STAFF SEPTEMBER 26, 2016

Boston Superintendent Tommy Chang, grappling with a sharp enrollment decline in the middle grades, is floating the idea of creating a system of elementary schools that end at grade 6 and high schools that start at grade 7, a move that could radically alter the fabric of most schools across the city.

Chang and his team have been talking about the idea with school principals since this summer and have begun soliciting proposals from individual schools.

The shift could result in reshuffling thousands of seats in the seventh and eighth grades.

Comments

Chang said the new configurations could boost the quality of education for seventh- and eighth-graders by concentrating support services in fewer schools.

“We want to gauge interest to see if this is a viable plan,” Chang said. “Right now, it’s just an inquiry.”

Chang is heading into potentially volatile territory, said Lisa Gonsalves, chair of the

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